# Commentary

5.31.25



# Total Market Managed Municipal Bond Strategy

Executive summary

- \_ The Total Market Managed Municipal Bond strategy returned -0.25% gross of fees and -0.27% net of fees in the month, compared to 0.06% for the portfolio's benchmark, the Bloomberg Municipal Bond Index.<sup>1</sup>
- \_ The municipal market yield curve declined inside of 10 years while rising modestly for longer maturities.<sup>2</sup>
- \_ The portfolio's overweights to longer maturities and BBB-rated issues weighed on relative return for the month.<sup>3,4</sup>

## Market review

- \_ The U.S. Treasury yield curve moved higher along its length over the month of May as concerns around inflation and fiscal policy continued to weigh on investor demand. The municipal market yield curve declined inside of 10 years while rising modestly for longer maturities. Municipals outperformed their Treasury counterparts for the month while municipal yield ratios relative to U.S. Treasuries became less attractive.
- \_ Municipal new issue supply for May was once again higher than for the same period 12 months earlier. However, in a reversal of the recent trend, tax-free mutual funds experienced meaningful inflows, supporting returns. Lowerquality municipals underperformed higher-quality issues.

## Performance review

\_ The Managed Municipal Bond strategy returned -0.25% gross of fees and -0.27% net of fees in the month, compared to 0.06% for the portfolio's benchmark, the Bloomberg Municipal Bond Index.

## Attribution analysis

- The strategy's above benchmark stance with respect to duration acted as a constraint on performance relative to the benchmark as yields for longer maturity municipals finished the period higher.<sup>5</sup> An overweight allocation to issues rated BBB (the lowest investment grade rating) also detracted, along with overweights to higher education, hospital and continuing care retirement community bonds. An overweight allocation to housing contributed positively to relative return.

## Portfolio positioning

- The relative steepness of the municipal yield curve versus
  Treasuries and the fact that the 30-year municipal yield is at a relatively attractive 92% of the comparable Treasury yield
  due partly to elevated new issue supply supports the strategy's focus on longer maturities. Credit spreads are now below long run averages but are unlikely to move wider given generally sound fundamentals as well as supportive market technical factors.<sup>6</sup>
- \_ The strategy has been selling longer bonds that are priced closer to par due to their unattractive interest rate risk profile, while investing in the 15–20-year part of the curve with a premium coupon. The strategy has been selectively adding to lower quality and BBB issues when it makes sense. The focus on purchases has mainly been on new issues, which are coming to market at wider spreads.

For Financial Advisor and their client use only. There is no assurance that investment objectives will be achieved. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. <sup>4</sup>Credit quality is a measure of a bond issuer's ability to repay interest and principal in a timely manner. Rating agencies assign letter designations such as AAA, AA and so forth. The lower the rating, the higher the probability of default. The portfolio's credit quality does not remove market risk and is subject to change.

<sup>5</sup>Duration, which is expressed in years, measures the sensitivity of the price of a bond or bond portfolio to a change in interest rates.

<sup>6</sup>Spread, or credit spread, refers to the excess yield offered by a lower quality bond relative to a higher quality bond of comparable maturity. When spreads widen, yield differences increase between the bonds being compared. When spreads narrow, the opposite is true./ Index returns do not reflect fees or expenses. It is not possible to invest directly in an index or category

## Source for all data is DWS Americas as of 5/31/25 unless otherwise noted.

Data is based on the unreconciled holdings of a representative portfolio which is included in the composite. Holdings-based data is subject to change. The information contained here should not be considered a recommendation to purchase, hold or sell a particular security and there is no assurance, as of the date of publication, that the securities purchased remain in the Portfolio or that securities purchased, sold, or recommended for the Portfolio during the period referenced, and there is no guarantee as to the future profitability of any of the securities identified and discussed herein. A list of all the Portfolio transactions during the past 12 months is available upon request. We or our affiliates or persons associated with us, or such affiliates (associated persons) may maintain a long or short position in securities referred to here, or in related futures or options: purchase or sell, make a market in, or engage in any other transaction involving such securities, and earn brokerage or other compensation in respect of the foregoing.

The opinions and forecasts expressed herein are as of 5/31/25 and may not come to pass.

### War, terrorism, sanctions, economic uncertainty, trade disputes, public health crises and related geopolitical events have led and, in the future, may lead to significant disruptions in U.S. and world economies and markets, which may lead to increased market volatility and may have significant adverse effects on the fund and its investments.

#### **Risk Information**

Bond investments are subject to interest rate, credit, liquidity and market risks to varying degrees. When interest rates rise, bond prices generally fall. Credit risk refers to the ability of an issuer to make timely payments of principal and interest. Interest on municipal bonds is generally exempt from federal income tax; however, some bonds may be subject to the alternative minimum tax (AMT). Typically, state tax exemption applies if securities are issued within one's state of residence and, if applicable, local tax exemption applies if securities are issued within one's city of residence. The tax-exempt status of municipal securities may be changed by legislative process, which could affect their value and marketability. Municipal securities are subject to the risk that litigation, legislation or other political events, local business or economic conditions or the bankruptcy of the issuer could have a significant effect on an issuer's ability to make payments of principal and/or interest. The market for municipal bonds may be less liquid than for taxable bonds and there may be less information available on the financial condition of issuers of municipal securities than for public corporations.

#### Important Information

This material was prepared without regard to the specific objectives, financial situation or needs of any particular person who may receive it. It is intended for informational purposes only and it is not intended that it be relied on to make any investment decision. It does not constitute investment advice or a recommendation or an offer or solicitation and is not the basis for any contract to purchase or sell any security or other instrument, or for DWS and its affiliates to enter into or arrange any type of transaction as a consequence of any information contained herein. Neither DWS nor any of its affiliates, gives any warranty as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of information which is contained in this document. The views expressed in this document constitute DWS or its affiliates' judgment at the time of issue and are subject to change. The value of share s/units and their derived income may fall as well as rise. Past performance or any prediction or forecast is not indicative of future results.

## For Financial Advisor and their client use only.

The brand DWS represents DWS Group GmbH & Co. KGaA and any of its subsidiaries such as DWS Distributors, Inc., which offers investment products, or DWS Investment Management Americas, Inc. and RREEF America L.L.C., which offer advisory services.

© 2025 DWS Group GmbH & Co. KGaA. All rights reserved. (6/25) R-104552\_7 SMAMGDMUNINOD-PMQC

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The Bloomberg Municipal Bond Index tracks the performance of investment-grade, fixed-rate municipal bonds with maturities greater than two years.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>The yield curve is a graphical representation of how yields on bonds of different maturities compare. Normally, yield curves slant up, as bonds with longer maturities typically offer higher yields than short-term bonds.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> "Overweight" means the portfolio holds a higher weighting in a given sector or security than the benchmark. "Underweight" means the portfolio holds a lower weighting.



## **General Municipal Bond - No Derivatives Composite: Composite Report**

Schedule of Investment Performance for the Period: 1/1/1993 - 3/31/2025 Benchmark: Bloomberg Municipal Bond Index Currency: USD

Period Ending (a)	Composite Gross of Fees Returns (%)	Composite Net of Fees Returns (%)	Benchmark (b)	Number of Accounts (c)	Composite Assets (c) (\$m)	Firm Assets (d) (\$m)	% of Firm's Assets (d)	Internal Dispersion % (e)	Composite Annualized 3 Yr St Dev %	Benchmark Annualized 3 Yr St Dev %
12/31/2024	1.74	1.56	1.05	1	54.20	174,541.00	0.03	N/A	6.95	7.50
12/31/2023	6.35	6.16	6.40	1	55.53	176,139.00	0.03	N/A	6.82	7.33
12/31/2022	-8.13	-8.29	-8.53	1	54.60	164,763.08	0.03	N/A	5.78	6.39
12/31/2021	1.57	1.40	1.52	1	70.02	192,793.29	0.04	N/A	3.55	3.95
12/31/2020	5.36	5.17	5.21	1	71.52	189,551.31	0.04	N/A	3.61	3.96
12/31/2019	7.73	7.57	7.54	1	36.68	176,904.62	0.02	N/A	2.41	2.43
12/31/2018	0.95	0.81	1.28	2	362.11	171,371.96	0.21	N/A	3.32	3.37
12/31/2017	5.08	4.93	5.45	3	414.46	199,011.43	0.21	N/A	3.25	3.33
12/31/2016	0.39	0.24	0.25	3	412.35	191,599.22	0.22	N/A	3.38	3.40
12/31/2015	3.68	3.47	3.30	3	429.91	220,937.01	0.19	N/A	3.30	3.37

Q1 2025	-0.43	-0.47	-0.22	1	53.50
Year to Date	-0.43	-0.47	-0.22	1	53.50

1 Year (f)	1.47	1.30	1.22
5 Years (f)	1.13	0.96	1.07
10 Years (f)	2.24	2.07	2.13
1/1/1993 -			
3/31/2025 (f)	4.74	4.54	4.53

Notes:

a) Inception and/or termination period of performance may not comprise a full year; see reporting period dates above.

b) Due to differences in sources for benchmark performance, there may be slight variances between benchmark returns noted above and those from other published sources.

c) Represents data at the end of the stated period.

d) Calendar year-end

e) Internal dispersion is calculated using asset-weighted standard deviation; calculated for gross returns for composites with five or more portfolios active over the full year.

f) Annualized performance for the time period used by DWS Americas to report performance for the composite. Performance less than one year is not annualized.

#### 1. Basis of Presentation

DWS Americas (the "Firm") represents the Americas region of DWS Group GmbH & Co. KGaA, which with its worldwide subsidiaries is a global asset manager. The Firm includes all institutional and retail portfolios, and excludes portfolios in Real Estate & Infrastructure Securities, Private Real Estate Equity, Private Real Estate Debt, DBX Advisors, and Private Equities. DWS Americas claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. DWS Americas has been independently verified for the periods January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 and January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2023. The verification reports are available upon request. A firm that claims compliance with the GIPS standards must establish policies and procedures for complying with all the applicable requirements of the GIPS standards. Verification provides assurance on whether the firm's policies and procedures related to composite and pooled fund maintenance, as well as the calculation, presentation, and distribution of performance, have been designed in compliance with the GIPS standards and have been implemented on a firm-wide basis. Verification does not provide assurance on the accuracy of any specific performance report. GIPS® is a registered trademark of CFA Institute. CFA Institute does not endorse or promote this organization, nor does it warrant the accuracy or quality of the content contained herein. This presentation of investment performance sets forth the time-weighted gross and net rates of return for the General Municipal Bond - No Derivatives Composite (the "Composite") for the period shown. Past performance is no guarantee of future results and may differ in future time periods. The Firm's policies for valuing portfolios, calculating performance, and preparing composite reports are available upon request.

#### 2. Selection Criteria and Valuation Procedures

The Composite includes all fully discretionary fee-paying portfolios invested primarily in the securities issued by municipalities across the United States and in other securities whose income is free from regular income tax. The objective of the strategy is to provide income exempt from regular income tax and to exceed the performance of the Bloomberg Municipal Bond Index, without the use of derivatives.

Eligible new portfolios are added to the Composite at the start of the first performance measurement period following the date that the portfolio is fully invested as

The brand DWS represents DWS Group GmbH & Co. KGaA and any of its subsidiaries such as DWS Distributors, Inc. which offers investment products or DWS Investment Management Americas, Inc. and RREEF America L.L.C. which offer advisory services.



# **General Municipal Bond - No Derivatives Composite: Composite Report**

## Schedule of Investment Performance for the Period: 1/1/1993 - 3/31/2025 Benchmark: Bloomberg Municipal Bond Index Currency: USD

defined by the Composite strategy. Securities listed on any national exchange are valued at their last trade price. Securities that are not listed are valued at the most recent publicly quoted bid price. Securities transactions are recorded on a trade date basis. If applicable, dividend income is recorded as of the ex-dividend date. Returns reflect investment of dividends and other earnings. The Composite was created 19 Nov 04.

#### 3. Calculation of Rates of Return

Composite returns are expressed in US dollars. For each portfolio within the Composite, the total rate of return for the time period is equal to the change in the market value of the portfolio, including capital appreciation, depreciation and income, as a percentage of the beginning market value of the portfolio, adjusted for the net of all contributions and withdrawals (the "cash flows"). Each cash flow is weighted from the actual date of contribution or withdrawal in the month it occurred. The results are for the Composite for all periods shown net of withholding taxes, where applicable, on dividends, interest, and capital gains.

Rates of return are calculated on a "time-weighted" basis for all portfolios which comprise the Composite. Time-weighted rates of return minimize the effect of cash flows on the investment performance of the portfolio. Monthly Composite rates of return are computed by taking an asset weighted average of each portfolio's monthly rate of return within the Composite, utilizing their respective beginning market values for the period. Annual Composite rates of return are derived by geometrically linking monthly Composite rates of return. Rates of return are presented gross and net of investment fees and include the deduction of transaction costs and commission costs. Net of fee performance is based on actual fees of the underlying accounts, which are asset weighted to derive a composite level net return. The standard fee schedule for accounts invested in this strategy is as follows: 0.40% on the first \$25m USD, 0.30% on the next \$75m USD and the balance is negotiable.

The standard deviation of comparable performance over time is a measure of dispersion. This calculation measures the fluctuation of the rates of return of portfolios within the Composite in relation to the average return. Dispersion is not shown for composites with less than 5 portfolios for a full year.

#### 4. Composite Benchmark

Composite returns are benchmarked against the Bloomberg Municipal Bond Index. This index is approximately 60% revenue bonds and 40% state government (1,100) bonds, computed twice monthly. The benchmark is used for comparative purposes only and generally reflects the risk or investment style of the investments reported on the schedule of investment performance. Investments made by the Firm for the portfolios it manages according to the Composite strategy may differ from those of the Bloomberg Municipal Bond Index. Accordingly, investment results will differ from those of the benchmark.

#### 5. List of Composites and Pooled Funds

In addition to the Composite, the Firm provides investment management services utilizing different strategies. A complete list and descriptions of the Firm's composites, broad distribution pooled funds, and any limited distribution pooled funds, are available upon request.

#### 6. Significant Events (not covered by the Independent Accountant's Report)

On 03/23/2018, Deutsche Asset Management rebranded to DWS. Deutsche AM Distributors, Inc. was renamed DWS Distributors, Inc. and Deutsche AM Service Company was renamed DWS Service Company.

On 07/02/2018, Deutsche Investment Management Americas became DWS Investment Management Americas.

On 12/31/2019, the GIPS Firm Definition was revised to include the non-ETF Passive Business.

#### 7. Composite Name Change

On 10/01/2008, the Managed Municipal Total Return Composite was renamed the General Municipal Bond - No Derivatives Composite.



# **General Municipal Bond - No Derivatives Composite: Composite Report**

Schedule of Investment Performance for the Period: 1/1/1993 - 3/31/2025 Benchmark: Bloomberg Municipal Bond Index Currency: USD